

Prairie Creek Watershed

Project Info

Understanding the Problems in the Watershed

Sediment - the sediment is coming from uplands in the form of sheet and rill erosion and from streambank erosion. Sediment carries nutrients, such as phosphorus, into the creek and creates a silt/mud stream bottom.

Runoff - runoff is coming from open lot livestock facilities. The high nutrient concentration in runoff can be lethal to fish and aquatic insects.

Habitat - little habitat exists in Prairie Creek which limits large numbers and different types of fish and insects.

What is a BMP?

Best Management Practice - a conservation practice or management technique installed or applied to the land.

Conservation Practice	Cost Share Rate
Ponds	75%
Water & Sediment Control Basins	75%
Grass Waterways	50%
Livestock Exclusion	75%
Filter Strips	90%
Riparian Buffers	90%
Streambank Stabilization	75%
In-stream Habitat	75%
Ag Waste Sediment Basin	75%

Project Goals

- 1. Application of BMPs for Priority Land**
Reduce sediment reaching the stream from priority land by 30% or 3,733 tons.
- 2. Application of BMPs Along Stream Corridor**
Reduce livestock access by 10% along Prairie Creek and its tributaries, convert 10% of the acres in row crop production along Prairie Creek and its tributaries to filter strips or riparian forest buffers, install stream bank stabilization and in-stream habitat.
- 3. Reduce Open Lot Runoff**
Construct solid settling ag waste sediment basins on approximately 30% of the high risk open feedlot livestock facilities.
- 4. Watershed Outreach Activities**
Promote the project through personal contacts and farm visits, BMP implementation, field days, signage, newsletters and the local media.

What can we do to help?

- Landowners in the Prairie Creek watershed can make a difference by partnering with the watershed project.
- Implement conservation practices on the land to reduce sediment and nutrients reaching Prairie Creek. Financial assistance may be available from the project.
- Contact the Clinton County Soil & Water Conservation District at (563) 659-3456 ext 3 to see how you can get involved.